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DoD News Briefing  
Tuesday, August 14, 1979, 11:30 a.m.  
(ASD/PA Thomas B. Ross)

P - Ross, Thomas B.

Cdr L.O.I. TURNER, Adm.

Greg SALT (Wk)  
(big under Ross)

Good morning. Do we have any questions, gentlemen?

Q: No, but I'd like to make a point for the benefit of Admiral Rickover's empire. I'm getting sick and tired of reading in the Post or any other place of things that happen to the Admiral, like he's going to the hospital. It seems to me that regardless of one's opinion of the man, he's news and those things should be announced across the board. (inaudible) because a couple of years ago what was described as exhaustion later turned out to be a heart attack but at least we ought to be given the word that the man's gone into the hospital or taken ill or something of that sort. I seem to be having no luck whatsoever with the Rickover cotirie. Perhaps you can do something.

A: Fred, I'll make sure the record shows your words and I'll make sure it's distributed to the proper places.

Q: Tom, that means that later today you'll be able to tell us his state of health, etc. I do think that Fred has a point. We do need to know about Admiral Rickover and how he is and where he is and what's happened to him.

A: I'll do my best.

Q: What's his state of health now?

A: I believe the Navy has put out something on it. We can get that to you.

Q: You don't have it here?

A: Do we have it? You want to read it out?

Cdr. Klee: Yes, sir. He entered the hospital Sunday and was operated on for a hernia on Monday and is recovering satisfactorily; expect him to be out of Bethesda (National Naval Medical Center) in a few days.

Q: Tom, has the Defense Secretary made his recommendation to the President yet on the basing mode?

A: No.

Q: Is he preparing it right away, within a few days?

A: The best I can do is say it'll be soon.

Q: What'll be soon?

A: The recommendation on the MX basing mode.

Q: Could you tell us the difference between the meeting at the White House last week where a consensus was reached on a basing mode -- the difference between that and the formal recommendation? I mean, won't his recommendation just be a pro forma followup on that White House meeting?

A: There will be, obviously, a final discussion between the Secretary and the President and perhaps others. I don't think it's yet determined how the recommendation will be phrased.

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